Defence Agreement with Vietnam

3385. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Vietnam have signed a defence agreement recently; and

(b) if so, what are the main features of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) During the recent visit of Raksha Mantri to Vietnam in March-2000 the two sides agreed to a number of measures to enhance defence cooperation between the two countries. These measures include cooperation in the areas of training, coast guard activities, naval activities, and the establishment of a periodical dialogue between the Ministries of Defence of the two countries.

Pak Preparedness in Northern Areas

3386. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any reports that Pakistan is building underground shelters for aircraft elongated airbase and imparting training for high altitude warfare to Pakistani troops in Northern Areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to counter the move?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) There are no confirmed reports regarding Pakistan's attempt to build underground shelters for aircraft, etc.

Training of Pakistan troops in high altitutde warfare is a continuing feature.

All developments having a bearing on India's national security are constantly monitored and all necessary steps are taken from time to time to maintain appropriate defence preparedness to thwart any attempt of misadventure by Pakistan.